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PERMITS

FOR THE

Removal of Sick Persons or Infected Articles.*

CIRCULAR ISSUED BY THE MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,
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[93.]

Under the law in Michigan, whoever takes the body of a person sick with or dead from a communicable disease, or any person or article capable of conveying disease, into any township, city or village in Michigan, without a written permit granted by the board of health of the locality *from* which, and also of the locality *to* which the infected body or article is taken, does so at his peril.

The law authorizing the granting of permits, section 57 of the Public Health Laws, section 1704 of the Compiled Laws of 1871, and section 1646 of Howell's Annotated Statutes, is as follows:—

Board may per- 57. (1705.) SEC. 14. The Board of Health may grant permits for the removal of
mit removal of any nuisance, infected article, or sick person within the limits of their township,
infected arti- when they shall think it safe and proper so to do.—§ 1646.
cles, etc.

The provisions of the foregoing section and of other sections in chapter XLVI of the Compiled Laws of 1871, apply to cities and villages, by reason of Act No. 145, Laws of Michigan, 1879 (§1681, Howell's Statutes, 16 of Public Health Laws), excepting in cases where the charters of cities or villages contain provisions inconsistent therewith.

It should be distinctly understood that a permit by the board of health for the removal of an infected article, dead body, or sick person is *good only within the limits of the township, city, or village in which the permit is granted.*

Such a permit should not be granted by a board of health except under such conditions and circumstances as will not endanger "the public health and safety." Relative to an infected dead body, if a permit be granted it should be conditioned as follows:

RULE 1. Before being placed in the coffin, the remains of the deceased shall be wrapped in a sheet thoroughly saturated with a strong solution of chlorinated soda, or chloride of zinc, one-half pound to the gallon of water, or a solution made in proportions as follows: water, one gallon; sulphate of zinc, eight ounces; common salt, four ounces.

RULE 2. The coffin shall be packed in a strong box, and shall be surrounded by sawdust, saturated with zinc solution of a strength equal to that required by Rule 1, above.

RULE 3. The body shall not be accompanied by persons who (or articles which) have been exposed to the infection of the disease.

RULE 4. The coffin shall not be opened, neither shall the box be opened, at the place of destination.

RULE 5. The burial shall take place immediately after arrival at the place of destination.

*Infectious or communicable diseases include small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhus fever, cholera, etc.

RULE 6. There shall be no public funeral.

RULE 7. The health officer of----- (the locality to which the body is consigned), shall have from the person in charge of the body, such timely notice of the time of its arrival within his jurisdiction as will enable him to supervise its reception.

RULE 8. In case there is necessity for transshipment of the body or other infected article, the health officer in whose jurisdiction the transshipment is to occur, shall have such timely notice of the time of its arrival within his jurisdiction as will enable him to supervise its transshipment.

In order to avoid prosecution under the law, any person proposing to transport a dead body or other infected article, should first make sure that the body or other article will be permitted to enter and remain in the locality to which it is to be consigned; and that the health officer of the locality to which the body or other article is to go, shall be informed of the proposed removal in time to attend to its reception in the safest manner. This may, perhaps, be secured by applying for a permit, for this particular body or article, from the board of health in the locality to which the removal is proposed. Application should then be made to the board of health of the locality from which it is proposed to remove the infected body or article, for a permit for such removal.

It will be conducive to safety if the board of health in each locality from which a removal is proposed will send timely notice to the health officer into or through whose jurisdiction it is proposed to send an infected body or article. If it is proposed to send an infected body or article by a wagon or carriage through more than one township, city, or village, notice and statement of the facts and circumstances should also be sent to the Secretary of the State Board of Health, at Lansing.

By direction of the State Board of Health.

Very respectfully,

HENRY B. BAKER,
Secretary.